

The

# Call Letter

November 2018

Vol 44, #11



# The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

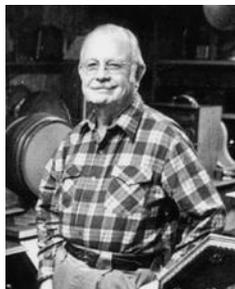
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.



## Society Officers for 2016:

President	Pat Kagi 360 909-7009	<a href="mailto:patkagi@yahoo.com">patkagi@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Brian Wegener (nnn) nnn-nnnn	<a href="mailto:spudweg@gmail.com">spudweg@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	<a href="mailto:edtomp@Q.com">edtomp@Q.com</a>
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	<a href="mailto:landn2@frontier.com">landn2@frontier.com</a>
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	<a href="mailto:mark@pdxhistory.com">mark@pdxhistory.com</a>
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	<a href="mailto:tranny53@frontier.com">tranny53@frontier.com</a>
Librarian	Damon Vandehey (503) 459-1777	
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson	<a href="mailto:vanguard4@lycos.com">vanguard4@lycos.com</a>

## On the Cover

Spokane Radio Company Inc. 1940 Catalog  
Photo by Hubert Miller

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## Announcements

**The November Meeting** will start at 9:30 AM on Saturday, Nov. 10. The program topic for November will be “Tube Testers” with the carry over “Horn Speakers.”

**Editor’s Note** – Please have December’s Call Letter Contributions in by November 24. I would like to thank member Art Redman for his ongoing, excellent series on early Portland radio history. It would be nice to see more articles of this type; this group is certainly not lacking in knowledge and talent. At least some tube labels??

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Visit our web site at:  
Find us on Facebook:

[www.nwvrs.com](http://www.nwvrs.com)  
[www.facebook.com/nwvrs](http://www.facebook.com/nwvrs)

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## NWVRS Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2018

President Pat Kagi called the October, 2018 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:30 AM. All present pledged allegiance to our flag. Leads and Needs: Ed Thompkins needs a base molding for a Philco Tombstone model 620, or someone that could make one. Darrell Klampe wants to sell a 1929 Philco console for \$50.00 541-296-3735. Robbie Robinson needs a 50's vintage radio control panel for a 50's museum.

Old business: There was some feedback on the YORS transmitters. Blake Dietz used an oscilloscope to align the transmitter. Robbie Robinson said his works good. Dave Eaton also said his transmitter was good. It was noted that the ground was very important. Tom Mayfield took on the task of building the new kits. The new kits seem to be easier to assemble and work better than the first ones. Sid Saul is working on having a metal fabricator to build the cases. Anyone interested in purchasing the new kits contact Dave Eaton 360-910-6966 cost is \$40.00.

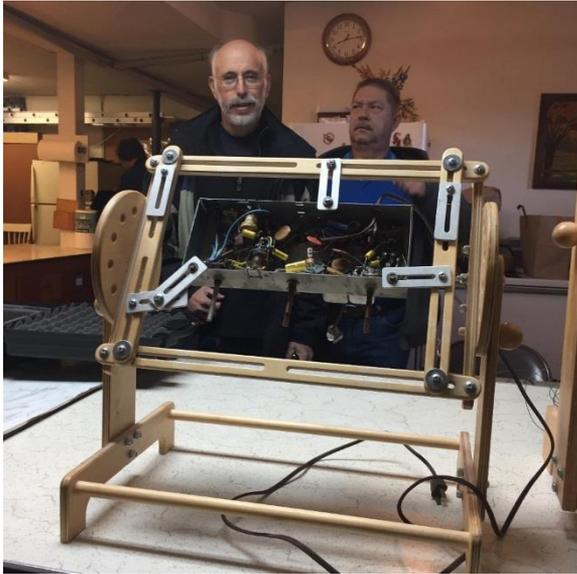
New business: Damon Vandehey has information on a venue for our April Sale. He said that the Warner Grange in Canby is available. Instructors wanted to teach middle school students at Robert Gray middle school, antique radio repair. Larry Osbourne said he would help set up and help an instructor. The membership had discussion on the subject. Stacy Ludington from Clackamas County gave a tech. talk on the Repair Fair. The fair is set up for people to bring in their broken items so that experts can work with individuals to repair them. Stacy said that there are Repair Fairs in several locations such as Washington County, and Multnomah County. Anyone interested can contact Stacy Ludington, Sustainability Analyst 503-742-4463. Repairfair.org or repairfairpdx.com

Mark Moore will continue as our web master/corresponding secretary.

Sid Brought both sizes Strong's Radio stands <http://radiostands.com/>

Recorded by Board Member at Large Mike McCrow

## **Strong's Radio Stand**



### **Note from President Pat Kagi**

Just got an update that it looks like we won't have a tech talk by Sid and Blake as other things have come up and there is not enough time for this month to properly prepare. Sorry about that. Christmas is just around the corner and we need a couple of volunteers to help out this year for the Christmas party. Please let us know if you can help out. We need people to handle: Christmas party potluck, Gift exchange, Entertainment. So far, Dick Karman has agreed to create a Christmas show for us, so that will take care of the entertainment this year. I've requested a board meeting the Thursday after the meeting in case we don't get someone to handle the other parts of the Christmas program. We have the grange booked until 2:30 and longer if we need it for the Christmas party. Remember that nominations are due in November for the elections in December.

Pat

## Calendar of Events

**November 18. CVRS Antique Radio Swapmeet. Burnaby, BC** [https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1969](https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=1969)

~~~~~2019~~~~~

**February 16, 2019. Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet.** Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com> .

**March 9, 2019. Mike & Key 38th Electronics Show & Fleamarket.** Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.mikeandkey.org/index.php>

**March 23, 2019. MicroHams Digital Conference.** Redmond, WA. <https://www.microhams.com/mhdc/>

**April. Yakima Hamfest. Yakima, Washington.** <http://yakimaamateurradioclub.com/yakima-hamfest/>

**April 13th & 14th, 2019. Communications Academy.** South Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA. <http://comacademy.org/>

**May. Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Flea Market and Hamfest,** Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Contact: Fred Laun, [w7pig@arrl.net](mailto:w7pig@arrl.net)

**May 4, 2019. Electronics, Ham Radio and Experimenters Swap Meet,** Kennewick, WA. Contact: Dan Durflinger KD7KJJ, [DANCAR68@AOL.COM](mailto:DANCAR68@AOL.COM) OR [KD7KJJ@ARRL.NET](mailto:KD7KJJ@ARRL.NET)

**May 18 & 19, 2019. River Radio Campout 2019.** Pateros WA. Sponsored by the Okanogan County Amateur Radio Club. Free "dry" camping along the Methow River at Pateros. Always the weekend prior to Memorial Day Weekend. [w7orc1@gmail.com](mailto:w7orc1@gmail.com) . <http://www.w7orc.com/> . Contact Mike W7MCM, [skippermike53@gmail.com](mailto:skippermike53@gmail.com) . (509)689-3164.

**May 31-June 2, 2019. SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention.** Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org) . [www.seapac.org/](http://www.seapac.org/) .

# Monthly Feature - Tuning Eye Radios

Photography by Franklin Ouchida

Not shown:

- \* Myron White, Skandinaviska Grammophon Aktiebolaget – early 60s 4-tube AM / SW / LW
- \* Dick Howard, Gonset Communicator 144-148.2 Civil Defense



**Colonial Tombstone – Sid Saul**



**Airline, late 30s**

**(Wells Garner  
93GW692A)**

**Sonny Clutter**

**Sears 4660  
(Chassis 101.487)**

**Alan Shadduck**



# POLICE PROWL CARS IN RADIO PROGRAM

## **The Great Police Broadcast By Art Redman**

The police radio station 500 watt KGPP (Government Portland Police) became operational on July 20, 1932 at 8 pm with an exciting and thrilling half hour KGW dedication broadcast featuring Mayor George Baker, Police Chief Leon Jenkins, and Police Captain Harry Thatcher. Ten of the city's prowl cars in their regular zones were on the alert to receive a radio call on their Western Auto receivers to race to SW Sixth and SW Alder with all possible speed, blaring sirens, brakes smoking, and two or three wheels off the ground without running over any pedestrians.

Engineer Haybarker of KGW placed a special microphone on the street outside the Oregonian Building so radio listeners could hear the actual arrival of the cars as well as the police calls flashed and broadcasted on KGPP by Clif Watson and Joe Hallock.

Listeners could time the arrival of the patrol car from first call to the final moment when the sirens squeal and the brakes screeched as the police emergency car made a complete stop in front of the broadcast stand. Dull 1932 musical entertainment filled in between the high spots of this radio demonstration of the efficiency, public security, and use of taxpayer money by the Portland Police in their never-ending war against crime and mayhem.

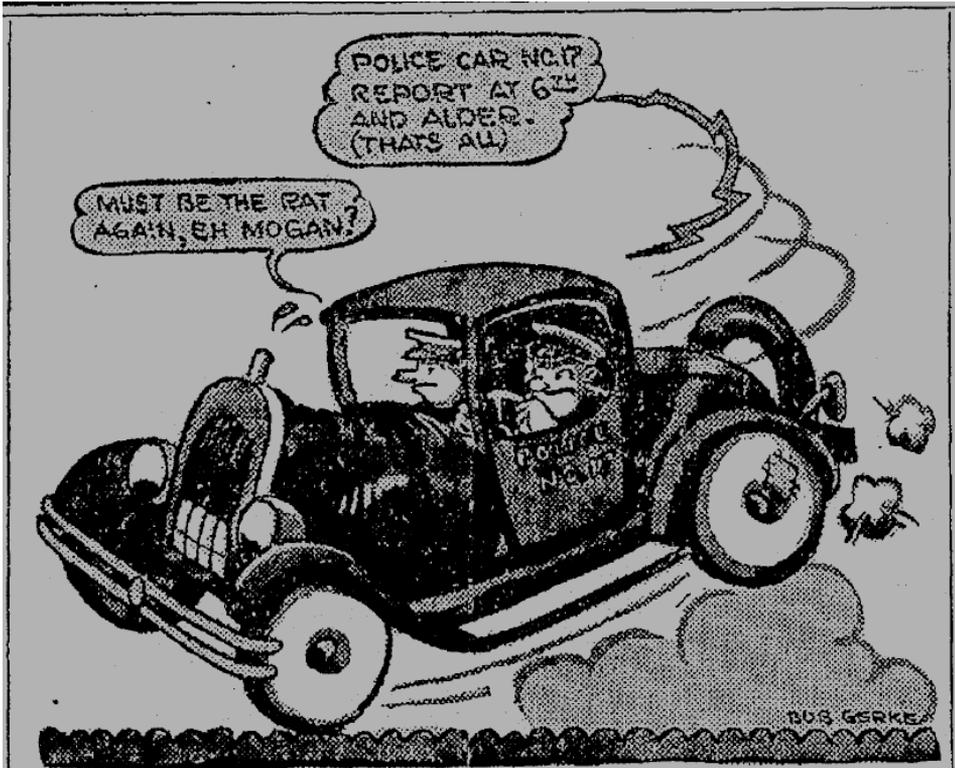
Source: "Police Prowl Cars in Radio Program", The Oregonian, July 20, 1932 page 8.

Novelty Broadcast Booked  
for Tonight.

MAYOR TO PARTICIPATE

Police Officials Also Will Assist  
in Dedication of New De-  
partment Service.

Snips from 1932 Oregonian



EMERGENCY CAR ANSWERING KGW CALL

Artistic portrayal (a la Bob Gerke) of police emergency car rounding corner on one wheel en route to Sixth and Alder streets tonight. Between 8 and 8:30 o'clock KGW will broadcast dedication of new police radio system and will conduct actual demonstration. Tune in—or come downtown.

If a big black automobile, with siren screaming, brakes smoking and two wheels off the ground swings around the corner and neatly brushes a row of buttons off your coat sleeve when you're downtown tonight don't cuss the police department. Cuss radio instead. Even cuss KGW if you want to, because nine chances out of ten the car will contain a couple of husky policemen hot-footing it down to Sixth and Alder streets.

Ten of the Portland police department's finest radio-equipped prowl cars tonight will participate in a half-hour program dedicating the new municipally owned police radio system. The program, too, will contain an actual demonstration of how the police department utilizes radio in its war against crime.

At 8 o'clock tonight microphones in the business office of The Oregonian building will be opened to carry a brief program, featuring Mayor Baker, Police Chief Jenkins and Captain Thatcher, who will formally dedicate KGPP, the Portland police department's short-wave station. There will be just enough musical entertainment to fill in between high spots.

After the dedication ceremony Chief Jenkins will broadcast calls to the ten radio-equipped cars that will participate. These calls will be rebroadcast by KGPP through special arrangements made by Joe Hallock, who, with Cliff Watson, engineered and installed KGPP. None of the cars participating will have been notified of their part in the broadcast, but immediately upon hearing their call and the order to report to the scene of the broadcast they will start for Sixth and Alder streets with all possible speed. All cars will be cruising in their regular zones.



Engineer Haybarker of KGW will have a special microphone on the street outside the Oregonian building so that listeners may hear the actual arrival of the cars as well as the calls that will be flashed out over the air. This will be one of the dramatic spots during the half-hour. Each car reporting will swing around the corner with sirens wide open and brakes screaming as it grinds to a stop in front of the broadcasting stand. To enjoy the broadcast to the fullest, be sure to have your watch handy and check the time it takes each car to arrive. You'll be astonished at the speed they make, and you'll have a much greater feeling of security when you observe the efficiency of the police radio system.

**Auction Items  
from  
October Meeting**

**Photography by  
Franklin Ouchida**









**Reliving Radio** entertains those who remember the **Way Radio Was** with audio and video clips of radio shows, commentary, news, music and memories of 40 years of radio history.

**Reliving Radio** has been part of the fun at car shows, banquets, museums, picnics, "sock hops," wedding receptions, "senior proms" or any special event for the over 65 set.

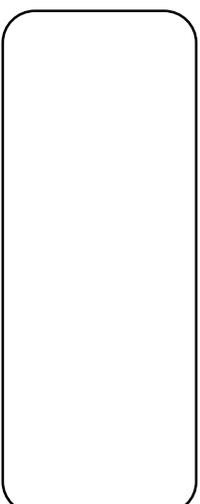
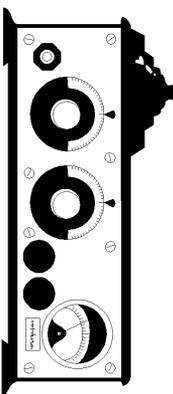
**Reliving Radio** provides entertainment and memories year round in more than 40 retirement communities in the Pacific Northwest.

[www.relivingradio.com](http://www.relivingradio.com)

Call to book **Reliving Radio** 503-784-4398



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